इक्युपमेंट है, यहां भी है, नेशनल हायड्रोलॉजिकल सेंटर नागपुर में भी है, यहां भी है, वी०पी० सेट यहां भी है, वहां भी है, सिस्मालौजिकल आब्जर्वेटरी नागपुर में नहीं है, भोपाल में है, इलेक्ट्रानिक टेलिप्रिंटर मशीन दोनों जगह है, पर्सनल कम्प्यूटर दोनों जगह है, नई बिल्डिंग भोपाल में बनी है, नागपुर में पहले से है, एअरपोर्ट मैटेरियोलॉजिकल इंस्ट्रूमेंट सिस्टम नागपुर में है, भोपाल में नहीं है। अगर जरूरत पड़ेगी तो वहां भी डाला जा सकता है। इस तरह सारी सुविधाएं बराबर है। केवल नाम के लिए यह कहना कि उस का नाम अब क्षेत्रीय कर दिया जाए, मैं नहीं समझता कि उस की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि हमारी जो अन्य आवश्यकताएं हैं, उस को देखते हुए यह किया गया है।

श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, वैसे तो मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर आ चुका है, लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जिस प्रकार से उन्होंने पांचवें कार्यालय के बाद छठवां कार्यालय गुवाहटी में खोलने का निर्णय किया है, उसी प्रकार भले ही यह नागपुर का कार्यालय स्थानान्तरित न किया जाए, लेकिन भोपाल में भी वहां इसकी आवश्यकता है, क्या इसकी जांच करवाने की कृपा करेंगे।

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति जी, अभी तक जो जांच कराई जा चुकी है, उसके अनुसार आवश्यकता नहीं है, लेकिन भविष्य में यदि आवश्यकता पड़ेगी तो हमारा ऐसा कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं है कि पांच से छह या छह से सात नहीं होंगे। यह तो आवश्यकता के अनुसार, मौसम विभाग की बढ़ती आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार, वायुसेना की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार, आवागमन की आवश्यकता के अनुसार, जैसी भी विशेषज्ञों की रिपोर्ट आएगी, वैसा सरकार निर्णय करेगी।

Medical Colleges in Assam

*282. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any money to Assam Government for improving the medical colleges at Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Silchar, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Planning Commission has provided Central Assistance of Rs. 2 crores for improvement of emergency care services in Guwahati Medical College, Assam in Annual Plan 1996-97. In addition, funds are provided on yearly basis by the Planning Commission for support to the Guwahati Medical College, Assam and through the North Eastern Council under its scheme to support medical colleges *viz.* Assam Medical College, Guwahati Medical College and Silchar Medical College.

The North Eastern Council Secretariat has further informed that through an ongoing scheme for supporting development of three medical colleges in Assam since 1996-97, funds to the tune of Rs. 336.86 lakhs have been released. Under this scheme, it is proposed to cover all the medical colleges in Assam during the entire 9th Five-year Plan for which a provision of Rs. 40.00 crores has been made. By another scheme for providing support for the development of Guwahati Medical College, an amount of Rs. 103.00 lakhs has been released during the 8th Five Year Plan and Rs. 50.00 lakhs during 1997-98. The provision under this scheme for 9th Five Year Plan is Rs. 2.00 crores. Further, under a scheme for construction of Paying Cabins, an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs in 1997-98 has been released for construction of paying cabins in the three medical colleges of Assam at Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Silchar.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my first supplementary is this. The three medical colleges at Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Silchar were established to cater to the needs of health-care of not only Assam but also of the other States of north-eastern region.

But, many modern amenities, tools, appliances and machines also are not available in these colleges now. From the reply I see that a very meagre amount is sanctioned to the colleges by the Planning Commission and the NEC. This harms the interests of medical students as well as patients of the region. So, my humble question is whether the Ministry have planned to improve the situation and also whether they have any plan to increase the assistance by Rs. 5 crores to each college annually.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, we are really for the improvement of any institution like these medical colleges. The Central Government is very much interested to improve the conditions in educational institutions, particularly medical colleges. But, unfortunately, the three medical colleges that the hon. Member has referred to, the Medical College in Dibrugarh, the Guwahati Medical College and the Medical College in Silchar, are found wanting. I really agree with him when he says that the conditions in these colleges are found wanting. Unfortunately, this subject has been in correspondence with the State Government officials, the Health Ministry officials and the Planning commission for quite some time. In 1996, the Health Ministry did receive a communication from the Health Minister of Assam explaining the conditions prevailing in the Guwahati Medical College. Immediately after that, our people in the Health Ministry have taken up the matter with the Planning Commission. They have also referred it to the State Government suggesting that problems of this type must be addressed to the Planning Commission so as to get some money allocated specifically for these purposes. The State Government, the Government of Assam, actually responded to that request. But their demand was a little more. In the meantime, the Health Ministry also deputed a team headed by a Deputy Director-General, health Services, from the Health Ministry, for personally visiting and finding out the conditions prevailing in the particular college. They have also brought some information. They did recommend something to the Government. The Government is still saying that the health Ministry has no provision. We are not in a position to provide any financial assistance to the college because the funds must be availed through the Planning Commission. That should certainly come from the State Government to the Planning Commission. Therefore, the Health Ministry requested the State Government officials to find a way out and make their provision in the Plan paper. But, unfortunately, the State Government of Assam said, considering the size, the Plan size, they could not accommodate this much amount, around Rs. 10 crores. They could not accommodate that. They said that considering the Plan size, they could not accommodate it in 1996 and they could not accommodate it in 1997 also. But then, we have taken up the matter with the Planning Commission and suggested they should provide a little money. To begin with, the immediate needs of a particular college, like establishment of an emergency casualty and certain other things, must be attended to. We had requested the Planning Commission to provide Rs. two crores for that purpose and that amount was straightway released to the State Government. But in the present Government, the Finance Minister has made an announcement to utilise the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the Seven North-Eastern States, and all the Central Government departments, who have that little unspent money, that money is to be pooled togehter and that money is to be used for development of the North-Eastern region States. But we find that the demand from the Assam Government is still lacking even in respect of the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources also. They have not asked for any money for improvement of the health sector. But in fact, we do not find money in the Health Ministry because we

have no provision to offer money to any State Government because this comes under the State Government. The Union Government, keeping in view the infrastructural requirement, suitably makes its recommendations to the Planning Commission. The Union Government also makes its suggestions to the respective State Governments. Thereafter, the Planning Commission makes the allocation. Sir, you may be aware that Rs. two crores was released for starting the emergency services at the initiative of the Prime Minister.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Sir, the Minister can send that information to the hon. Member.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Sir, my second supplementary is, the hon. Minister has admitted that there is some difficulty in respect of health care at that place. He has also said that the Assam Government did not ask for any money. But that is not the case. I will have to inquire about this fact, whether it is correct or not. That is a different thing. Because of the prevalence of this complicated disease, the people in that region are facing some difficulty. The patients from assam and the North-Eastern region have to go outside for their treatment. It is very difficult for them to get the necessary health care against this disease in the North-Eastern region. So, will the Ministry think over to establish a branch of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Guwahati to cater to the health care of the people of the North-Eastern States? If this is done, perhaps, the Health Ministry can help the people a lot.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, every State Government has its own resources and infrastructure and they are well within their rights to improve them or raise any institution to help and meet the health care of the people in their respective regions. We, in the Health Ministry, really recommend and suggest the modalities and way-outs. That is all we can do at the moment.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: Sir, between these three colleges, again, there is discrimination in the allotment of funds given by the North Eastern Council. The condition of the Silchar Medical College is horrible. It is lacking in equipment, it is lacking in other amenities. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware of the conditions prevailing in the Silchar Medical College, particularly.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, about the Silchar Medical College, we had received a letter from a former Member of Parliament also. That was considered, and in turn, we have sent it to the respective State Governments for their comments. I do not know what has happened at the level of the Assam Government. We have realised that the Silchar Medical College is still lacking in certain things. We will sent our recommendations to the Assam Government, and on receipt of their comments, we will look into the matter.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, there is a major health problem in Assam for lack of adequate diagnostic facilities, because of which a large number of patients from that region have to come to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences or they have to go to Vellore for diagnosis and treatment. The Prime Minister's package envisages a special programme for the development of the diagnostic facilities in the medical colleges in Assam. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as per the Prime Minister's package, what precisely the proposal of the Government of Assam is and what the action, which has been taken on that, is.

The second part of my supplementary is that the Central Government Health Scheme is also not adequate to take care of the needs of the employees. There are no polyclinic facilities and expert facilities in the CGHS hospitals in Assam. In such cases they are being referred either to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences or to the medical colleges. So, they have to face a lot of problems. The drug store

facilities in the CGHS hospitals is not up to the mark. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the proposals, which his Ministry has got to develop the CGHS in Assam, are.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, a package has been announced by the then Prime Minister. The Department is following it up in consultation with the State Government and the North-Eastern Council. The North-Eastern Council has been looking into it. Now, we have the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources. This can well be utilised by the Assam Government as well as the other North-Eastern States. As regards the package, we don't find anything new, which has been indicated by the Assam Government as found wanting from the Healthy Ministry in the health sector, in the proposals received by the Planning Commission from the Assam Government. The hon. Member can suggest to the Health Department or the Assam Government to come with their own suggestions and we will consider them.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, regarding the Central Government Health Scheme, there is a problem of polyclinic facilities. I would like to know what the action, which the Government has taken on that, is.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: My friend may give a separate notice for that, Sir.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, two years ago I had been to Silchar and Guwahati and subsequently also. The hon. Minister is only expressing a past desire and is passing the buck on to the State Government. But the issue is this. Among the three medical colleges, the condition of Silchar Medical College is just like that it is non-existent. There are students, but there are no doctors. Even then the students have been appearing in the examinations and they have been given MBBS degree. Those who are not taught, those who have no facilities, those who have no equipments, are just appearing in the examinations and getting through. Therefore, the students, who pass the examinations from these colleges, have hardly any knowledge of medicine and treatment and they are being certified as doctors. Therefore, the situation is much graver than what the hon. Minister deems it to be. It is not a question of passing the buck to anybody. It is affecting our medical service. It is affecting the quality of education. It is affecting the doctors. Therefore, my question is whether the Central Government will take immediate measures in consultation with the State Government and the Planning Commission to improve and restore normalcy and standard education in these colleges, particularly, in the Silchar Medical College. I want a reply on facts, not a statement on past desire.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, the condition in the medical colleges and the standard of education in the medical colleges is primarily monitored, inspected and maintained by the Medical Council of India. If the hon. Member feels that the Health Ministry has to intervene in this and take possible measures to rectify the inadequacies in the medical colleges, we are certainly one with the hon. Member.

Sir, it is true that these things are happening in the Silchar Medical College. I certainly join the hon. Member. I share the agony and anguish. These things should not happen. If certificates have been given to students who have not studied medical education, it is something shocking. I have taken note of it. I will ask the Medical Council of India to inquire into the matter. Sir, I will come out with the details as and when they come to me.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it regarding the North-East?

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: No, Sir. It is about the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then I am not allowing. The question is very specific. *(Interruptions)*. I am not allowing. Shri Narendra Mohan.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, the degrees which are given by the Dibrugarh Medical College or the Guwahati Medical College or the Silchar Medical College are valid throughout the counry. The students who pass....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question should be only on the North-East.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, Silchar is in the North-East.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying. You put your question only on the North-East.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, the degrees which are being given by these medical colleges are valid throughout the country. If a student becomes a doctor after taking a degree from these medical colleges, he can practise anywhere in the country. Therefore, the whole country is involved in it.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Sir, he wants to know about....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know. Please don't interrupt. He does not need your support.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: The unfortunate thing is, the Medical Council of India has not been able to do its job properly, as has been admitted by the hon. Minister. My question arises from the statement of the hon. Minister. Why has the Medical Council of India failed to give the right norms? Why have they failed to give the right atmosphere for creating good medical colleges? The level of education in medical colleges in Silchar.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already answered this question. He is going to ask the Medical Council of India. Quesion No. 283.

SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Sir, what steps is he going to take?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already answered. *(Interruptions)*.

He has already answered. Question No. 283.

Railway safety

*283. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway safety has not been reviewed for over last twenty years; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

रेल मंत्री (श्री नीतीश कुमार): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) जी नहीं। रेल संरक्षा की समीक्षा करना एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है जो रेल प्रशासन द्वारा सभी स्तरों पर की जा रही है। संरक्षा की आवधिक समीक्षा मंडल स्तर पर, मंडल रेल प्रबंधक द्वारा, क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर महाप्रबंधक द्वारा और सर्वोच्च स्तर पर रेलवे बोर्ड द्वारा की जाती है।

उपरोक्त के अलावा, निरपवाद रूप से प्रत्येक दुर्घटना की जांच पर्यवेक्षकों या अधिकारियों की समिति या रेल संरक्षा आयुक्त द्वारा की जाती है जो दुर्घटना की गंभीरता पर निर्भर करता है। जांच रिपोर्ट में ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं की भविष्य में पुनरावृत्ति रोकने के लिए निवारक और सुधारात्मक उपाय भी सुझाए जाते हैं। आयोग द्वारा रेल संरक्षा आयुक्त की रिपोर्ट को तब तक समाप्त नहीं माना जाता है जब तक कि आयोग की संतुष्टि के अनुरूप रेल मंत्रालय "की गई कार्रवाई" रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत नहीं कर दी जाती है।

इसके अलावा, गाड़ी परिचालन में संरक्षा की व्यापक समीक्षा, (क) रेल दुर्घटना समिति-1962, (कंजरू समिति), जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट नवंबर, 1963 में प्रस्तुत की, (ख) रेल दुर्घटना जांच समिति-1968 (वांचू समिति), जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट अगस्त, 1969 में प्रस्तुत की और (ग) रेल दुर्घटना जांच समिति-1978 (सीकरी समिति), जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट मई 1980 में प्रस्तुत की थी, द्वारा की गई थी।